

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Preliminary Amendment is being resubmitted in response to the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment (37 CFR 1.121) dated January 5, 2006, in order to identify the claim that Claim 7 is dependent upon. By this Amendment, the specification is amended, claims 1-13 are amended and claim 18 is added. Claims 1-18 are pending. An Abstract (corresponding to that of the published PCT application corresponding to this application) is attached on a separate sheet. No new matter is added. No claim fees are due since these were paid previously when this application was filed in the U.S. national phase.

Entry of the above-amendment is respectfully requested prior to examination of the application. The English translation (previously submitted on March 3, 2005) of the application corresponds to the application originally filed in Japanese. The above amendment revises the application as translated into English to be in a format more closely corresponding to that customarily employed in U.S. practice and to eliminate multiple dependent claims and correct some typographical and grammatical errors in the specification and claims. Support for new claim 18 can be found in Figs. 4A and 4B. Thus, no new matter has been introduced.

It is respectfully submitted that the application is in good form for initial examination on the merits. Accordingly, prompt and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for initial examination and allowance, the

Application Serial No. 10/526,518
Attorney Docket No. O1044/20013
Preliminary Amendment Dated January 24, 2006

Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

CAESAR, RIVISE, BERNSTEIN,
COHEN & POKOTILOW, LTD.

January 24, 2006

Please charge or credit our
Account No. 03-0075 as necessary
to effect entry and/or ensure
consideration of this submission.

By 

Barry A. Stein
Registration No. 25,257
Customer No. 03000
(215) 567-2010
Attorneys for Applicants